

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR

SUBJ: CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE VENUE

REF: STATE 8159

1. USUN HAS AVOIDED RESPONDING TO MEXICAN CHARGE CARRANCO AVILA PENDING DETERMINATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO MAKE TO THE MEXICAN INVITATION TO HOST THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE IN MEXICO CITY. THE SECRETARIAT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SHORTLY A FORMAL GOM INVITATION WITH AN EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TO THE UN.

2. THE ATTITUDES OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOUR POWER CONSULTATIVE GROUP ARE AS FOLLOWS: UKUN HAS TOLD THE MEXICAN MISSION THE BRITISH WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE MEXICAN INVITATION ON THE CONDITION THE GOM PAY THE ADDITIONAL COSTS. THE SOVIET MISSION PREFERS NEW YORK BECAUSE THIS WOULD "MAKE POSSIBLE AMB. MALIK'S PARTICIPATION, THAT IS, HIS DELIVERING AN OPENING STATEMENT" ACCORDING TO SMUN COUNSELLOR SMIRNOV. FRENCH MISSION MINISTER COUNSELLOR SCALABRE SAYS PARIS SEES
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NO REASON WHY THE VENUE SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HEADQUARTERS.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG CHARTER REVIEW PROPONENTS ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION BUT THE SUBJECTS OF CONSULTATION, AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY PARTICULAR VIEW ON THE GOM INVITATION, ARE NOT KNOWN. WE MUST ANTICIPATE AN LDC TENDENCY TO WELCOME THE INVITATION ON THE BASIS OF SUCH FACTORS AS MEXICO'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS ACROSS THE BOARD, THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIAL REASONS WHY MEXICO CITY WOULD BE UNATTRACTIVE, APPARENT MEXICAN WILLINGNESS TO ABSORB THE ADDITIONAL COSTS, AND THE ABSENCE OF A COMPETING INVITATION. ONE FACTOR WE COULD TRY TO MAKE USE OF IN SEEKING TO KEEP THE SESSION IN NEW YORK IS THE FACT THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE NEW YORK MISSION PERSONNEL WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE SMALLER COUNTRIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE INVOLVED AT THE SAME TIME IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, THE FOURTH SESSION OF WHICH FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY THE CONCLUSION OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE; FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN MEXICO CITY WOULD MAKE IMPOSSIBLE SIMULTANEOUS INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN LOS CONSULTATIONS, A NUMBER OF WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK.

4. UN ACTING LEGAL COUNSEL SLOAN TOLD MISOFF 14 JANUARY THAT CONFERENCE SERVICES HAS PRODUCED AN ESTIMATE OF \$200,000 ADDITIONAL COSTS TO THE UN IF THE SESSION WERE HELD IN MEXICO CITY; SOME \$100,000 IS FOR THE SUMMARY RECORD TEAM. THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE MEXICAN MISSION WHICH DID NOT QUARREL WITH THE AMOUNT; IN RESPONSE TO MISOFF'S QUESTION, SLOAN SAID CARRANCO HAD TOLD HIM THERE SEEMED TO BE NO OPPOSITION TO MEXICO CITY; CARRANCO HAD NOTED MALIK'S PREFERENCE FOR NEW YORK BUT SAID THIS HAD BEEN STATED AS A PREFERENCE.

5. WE PREFER THAT THE COMMITTEE MEET AT HEADQUARTERS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. HOWEVER, WE CAN FIND NO POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING MEANINGFUL OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN INVITATION AMONG THE LARGER BODY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. CITING THE NEED IN NEW YORK FOR SMALL COUNTRY PERSONNEL FOR FEBRUARY LOS CONSULTATIONS WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN AVOIDING

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MEXICO CITY BUT WOULD LIKELY RESULT IN A MAJORITY SEEKING A POSTPONEMENT OF THE SESSION UNTIL, SAY JUNE, AT WHICH TIME LDC PREPARATION ON CHARTER REVIEW WOULD HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE FAR MORE DEVELOPED THAN IF THE SESSION IS HELD, AS SCHEDULED, FROM 17 FEBRUARY - 12 MARCH. (THE LDC'S WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS EARLY TIMING WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED DURING THE 30TH GA BUT TOOK NO CONCERTED ACTION TO OPPOSE IT.) THERE IS NO REASONABLE PUBLIC GROUND FOR

SAYING NO TO THE MEXICAN INVITATION UNLESS, OF COURSE,
IT IS TO BE DECLINED PURPOSELY IN THE CONTEXT OF US-MEXICAN
RELATIONS. WHILE WE DO NOT HESITATE TO OPPOSE MEXICAN POSITIONS
ON IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WHERE OUR VIEWS DIVERGE,
IT IS HARDER TO REFUSE A FULLY FUNDED INVITATION OFFERED
IN WHAT MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SEE AS A PROTOCOLARY
AND PRESTIGE CONTEXT.

6. WITH A MEXICAN INVITATION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME
THE EXPECTATION THAT MEXICO COULD HAVE THE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMANSHIP FOR THIS SESSION, AS AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
POINTS OUT. WE WOULD PREFER TO RETAIN BROMS OF FINLAND AS
CHAIRMAN, ALTHOUGH HE PROVED AT THE 1975 SESSION TO BE LESS
HELPFUL THAN ANTICIPATED. BROMS WOULD CERTAINLY BE BETTER
THAN GONZALEZ GLAVEZ, WHO IS NOT RELIABLE, BUT ONLY
MARGINALLY BETTER THAN CASTANEDA WHO, WHILE HE HAD IDEAS
VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES, IS A
RESPONSIBLE, DISTINGUISHED AND, NOW, SENIOR OFFICIAL AS A
NEWLY-APPOINTED MEXICAN UNDER SECRETARY.
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